Letters have also been addressed to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States which have been found to lag behind. State Governments have also been requested to give wide publicity to these schemes and improve the implementation. Such efforts will be continued. Stapping up the publicity campaign through media and other means, continuous monitoring of the process of implementation and frequent discussions with State Governments at various levels and simplification of procedures are some of the steps proposed for effective implementation of the scheme and to ensure national minimum standards by all the State Governments.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अधीन निधियां

1640. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में पंचायत वार बिखरी हुई और कम आबादी होने के कारण जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत पंचायतों को दी जाने वाली राशि इतनी कम है कि उससे कहीं भी किसी भवन का निर्माण नहीं किया जा सकता;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या मंत्रालय जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अधीन पृथक मानदंड निर्धारित कर पर्वतीय इलाकों में पंचायतों को अधिक निधियां प्रदान करने का प्रावधान करने का विचार रखता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री किंजरापु येरन्नायडु): (क) जवाहर रोजगार योजना की निधियों का जिले से ग्राम पंचायतों को आबंटन करने के लिए मानदंड बनाते समय यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि कम आबादी अर्थात् 1 हजार से कम आबादी वाली ग्राम पंचायतों को 1 हजार के बराबर माना जाए। तथापि, आबंटन निधि की उपलब्धता के आधार पर किया जाता है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Action Plan for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

1641. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments have asked the State Government to prepare a concrete action plan to merit Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) the total outlay proposed for the year 1997-98 for the purpose;

(c) whether any requisition has been received from the state Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and the fund sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh water supply scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total outlay approved under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 1126.90 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Against the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for a sum of Rs. 171.86 crore, the allocation approved so far is Rs. 122.78 crore.

Million Wells Scheme in Orissa

1642. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objective of the Million Wells Scheme and the States where the scheme has been introduced so far;

(b) whether the scheme has been implemented in Orissa;

(c) if so, the coverage under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in that State; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to expand the Million Wells

Scheme in various States in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: (a) to (d) Million Wells Scheme (MWS) was launched as a sub-scheme of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during 1988-89. On 1.4.1989 NREP and RLEGP were merged and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) launched. Million Wells Scheme continued as sub-scheme of JRY upto 31.12.1995. It is now being implemented as an independent scheme w.e.f. 1.1.1996. The objective of Million Wells Scheme is to provide assistance for construction of irrigation sources and land development, free of cost for the poor small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers. From 1993-94 Million Wells Scheme has been extended to non SC/ST poor small and marginal farmers also. Million Wells Scheme is being a Centrally sponsored scheme, the funds are shared between Central and State on 80:20 basis. Million Wells Scheme funds are allocated among the districts by the State Government with reference to the unirrigated land with potential for well irrigation and improvement of lands held by the rural poor. The scheme is being implemented all over the country including Orissa. MWS Scheme will be continued during the Ninth Five Years Plan also.

The physical and financial performance under MWS during 1996-97 in respect of Orissa is as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Total available funds (OB + Funds released)	Expenditure	Wells constructed (in no.)
5049.96	4176.51	18349

Priority to productive employment and land reforms

1643. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given the highest priority to generate adequate productive employment with focus on agriculture and emphasis on radical land reforms;

(b) whether he agrees with this policy; and

(c) if so, whether Government are lacking in land reforms and which are the States who are very much behind in land reforms and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission and this ministry have traditionally emphasized issues related to the generation of productive employment and implementation of land reform measures. The Programme of action for land Reforms in the 9th Plan *inter alia* includes the detection/redistribution of ceiling surplus land, tenancy reforms, regular updating of land records, prevention of tribal land alienation and ensuring the access of women and weaker sections of society to land.

(c) It is not a fact to say that the Government is lagging in the implementation of Land Reform measures. For example, as a consequence of the enforcement of land ceiling laws, about 74 lakh acres has been declared surplus. Most of this land has been distributed mainly to landless persons belonging to the SC/ST. Substantial progress has also been made in the Consolidation of Holdings and in respect of tenancy reforms.

Contract for the dug wells to a foreign NGO in Orissa

1644. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Kalahandi (Orissa) contract for the dug wells has